

Bidding at Auction Has Not Yet Been Made a Matter of Science

End Games at Bridge Through Which Y and Z Lost the Rubber Because They Were Not Problem Solvers—Exercises for the Ingenious

Bridge problem No. 430 had a peculiar variation of the usual forcing discard in preparation for a tenace position, as it gave the defence its choice of which position to prepare for. Here is the distribution:

♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
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There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want five tricks.

The solution is for Z to lead the small spade, Y plays the ten and B wins. As B cannot return the heart without losing two tricks at once, his choice lies between the club and the diamond.

If B selects the club, Y wins and leads the queen of diamonds, Z discarding a spade. Y follows with the spade queen. If B now discards his remaining diamond, Z will overtake the spade queen with the king and lead the losing club, upon which Y gets rid of his losing diamond. Now B loses two heart tricks.

If B discards the club instead of the diamond, Z will let the spade queen hold, and Y is able to throw B into the lead with the small diamond, again making two tricks in hearts.

If B prefers to lead the diamond for the second trick, Z discards a spade and Y wins. Y now leads the club queen, so as to prevent A's having an easy discard, later on. If B discards the queen forces the essential discard from B. If B discards the diamond, Z overtakes the spade and leads the club. If B leads the club, the spade queen holds and Y leads the diamond.

The lead of the spade queen before the club will not solve, because Z does not know whether to overtake or not. If B lets go his remaining diamond, Z will lead the heart jack, to force a discard from A, that player sheds the spade, and all three suits are blocked.

Here is a little game that came up in play the other day. In which Y and Z wanted all the rest of the tricks to win the rubber. Not being problem solvers, they missed it.

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Experts at Playing the Hands Fail Sometimes to Judge Correctly What Their Partner or Their Opponents Are Driving At

By R. F. FOSTER.

Persons who are not familiar with the psychological aspects of auction frequently express astonishment at the difference between the class of bidding and the class of play of those who are supposed to be in the first class in both. The experts know how to play the hand, especially if they are old whistlers, is self-evident, but they seem to be far behind the standard when it comes to the bidding.

Whether this is because even the best players have not given the same amount of study to the bidding that they have to the play or because the science of the play has been settled for them by the accumulated knowledge of nearly two centuries, while that of the bidding is still in an experimental stage, it is difficult to say.

All such matters as the leads, the echoes, unblocking tactics, making and saving of reentries, ducking and finessing are now reduced to an exact science. They would never have been arrived at the present state of perfection in partnership play if they were not of much older growth than the bidding.

But when it comes to the bidding, there is no such agreement, and no such scientific accuracy seems to have been reached. The bidding is still a matter of guesswork, and each feels privileged to experiment for himself. Once having got into a groove, it is difficult to get out of it, even if one gets a job now and then that is not only unpleasant but unprofitable.

One great difficulty in the bidding at auction seems to be in judging just what the other players, partner or opponents, are driving at. What their bids mean, as an example, what two persons who are supposed to know all their bids, is to know about auction can accomplish in the way of bidding, take the following hand as an example.

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THE SUN, SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1918.

POEMS WORTH READING.

From the ashes of the last sun
Heaped in the bottom of the Urn of Space,
Roses a vapor, tongues, defiant,
Muscled with thunder,
Unmuffled of atoms,
Extinction, imminent, utter:

"I was the consciousness of Being called Man
That walked in the sunlight of Time,
And that crumbled with the Zodiac,
I waded with comets and famines and
heartbeats."

"I was Man, the epic of the Blind Homer
of the Indefinite,
Written on the curling pages of the Fugacious
of the Indefinite."

"I saw into my Night
Unconquered, unforgotten, throned on my
Will,
To forge in my Sleep new Chances in
the world of the Indefinite."

The alphabet of more fugitive Varieties,
Tremendous Apocalypse-to-be of a
Cataleptic Yonder!"

BENJAMIN DE CASSERES.
Divining Rod.
How do I know that waters run
Threading their way unseen in the sun?
They would quench a thirst, if they only
might—

Thirsting, themselves, to drink of the
light!

I have a touch—I will give it no name,
I can only guess from whence it came:
Not even a hand! I am divine,
But that which I seek I am divine.

I know what I seek for myself, but do all,
For themselves, know the same—when
they would quench a thirst, if they only
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Army Sets High Physical Standard for Americans

BROOKLYN, BEATEN, LEADS IN CRICKET

Manhattan Club Has Margin of 114 Runs in Prospect Park Match.

Unusual work with bat and ball by H. Meyer of the champion team of the Manhattan Cricket Club brought victory to that organization in the Metropolitan League match with the Brooklyn Cricket Club by a margin of 114 runs at Prospect Park, Prospect Grounds, yesterday.

The Brooklyn team, which were all out for 51, of which J. L. Allen made 17, H. Meyer 13 and J. W. Poyer 11. Meyer took three of the Brooklyn wickets at a cost of 20 runs and P. R. Hall, six for 31. The champions responded with a score of 165, of which Meyer made the lion's share of 76 in hard hitting fashion.

C. Lauder made the second highest score of 29. G. E. Taylor had a merry innings of 17 and F. S. Hall added 11. Harry Russell, the league's champion bowler, took 12 wickets for 65 runs, but they cost him 67 runs. J. L. Poyer accounted for two wickets for 28 runs and H. Meyer, 2 for 51.

The Brooklyn notwithstanding their defeat, retained the lead in the competition with 17 points, the Manhattan following with 16 points and the Camerons with 14.

Thanks to consistently good work at the wickets, the eleven of the Kings County Cricket Club, totaling 122, furnished the surprise for the day, and were dismissed for 45 in the Metropolitan League fixture at Prospect Park, Prospect Grounds, yesterday.

For Kings County, J. Brook, 22, 4, W. Barnes, 17, W. R. Jensen, 16, not out, and O. Bliss, 13, were the principal scorers. Jensen also distinguished himself by taking 5 wickets for 41 runs. E. J. Brown took 3 for 14.

Three of the Camerons' batsmen, E. Goodman, C. Lewis and W. Williams scored 18 runs apiece, Williams being not out. J. J. Johnson, the club's bowler, took 4 wickets for 14 runs. Welch and Howard both took 2 wickets at the cost of 30 runs.

A cricket match with an exciting finish between the Gleaners and Veterans at Prospect Park yesterday resulted in favor of the Gleaners, 79 to 74. Alder, with a fine score of 49, made the best record for the winning side, while Robert Smith, for the Veterans, took 14, were the doubles on the losing side.

Lewis, with 6 wickets for 17 runs, had the best bowling average, while Greenidge, for the Veterans, took 10, and Alder, 2 for 14, also did well.

With a score of 112, the United eleven easily defeated the Windward Cricket Club, which made only 44, at Prospect Park yesterday. Robert Smith, for the United, took 14, were the doubles on the losing side.

Lewis, with 6 wickets for 17 runs, had the best bowling average, while Greenidge, for the Veterans, took 10, and Alder, 2 for 14, also did well.

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